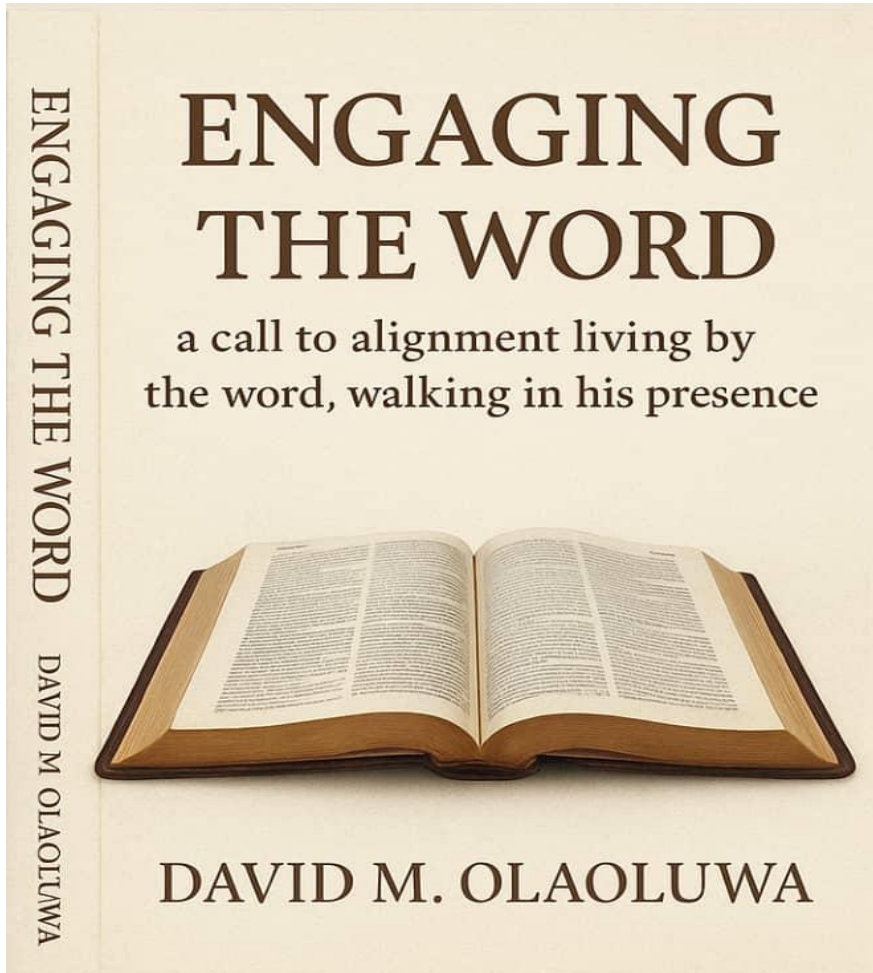


ENGAGING THE WORD

A Call to Alignment

Living by the Word, Walking in His Presence



By David Morakinyo

Copyright Page

Engaging the Word: A Call to Alignment

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Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version (KJV).

Dedication

To the Living Word—Jesus Christ,
whose voice still speaks behind every written page,
and to every seeker longing to hear and obey.

Acknowledgment

My deepest gratitude to the Holy Spirit,
who breathes life into every verse and quickens the heart to obey.
Thank you to my family and faith community for unwavering
encouragement,
and to every mentor and friend who has modeled a life anchored in
Scripture.
Your prayers and counsel have strengthened this journey.

About the Book

Engaging the Word: A Call to Alignment is a practical and prophetic guide to living under the authority of Scripture.

Drawing from Isaiah 30:21 and 1 Timothy 4:13, it shows how reading awakens awareness, studying births understanding, and obedience unlocks transformation.

Each page is designed to stir hunger for God, revealing that the Word is not merely text but the living voice of Christ.

You will discover:

How to cultivate a daily rhythm of hearing God through His Word.

The twofold discipline of study—exhortation and doctrine—that makes the Word flesh in your life.

Why obedience is the narrow path to freedom and power.

The danger of walking “the way of man” and the beauty of aligning with heaven’s way.

The three forces that ultimately rule men: gift, Word of God, and presence of God—and how to stay anchored in the greatest of these.

This book is both instructional and empowering, calling every believer to embrace Scripture not as a ritual but as a living encounter.

Introduction

“Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, This is the way, walk in it...” — Isaiah 30:21

Every generation must rediscover the voice of God in the pages of Scripture.

The Bible is not a relic of history; it is the breath of the living God, fresh and active today.

To engage the Word is to open the heart to His counsel, to let His light expose our motives, and to walk the path He marks out.

Many read the Bible casually, but few listen until the written becomes the spoken.

This book is an invitation to that deeper journey.

We will begin with Reading, the gateway that awakens spiritual awareness.

From there we will explore Studying, the discipline that births understanding and transformation—examining both exhortation and doctrine.

Then comes Obedience, where the Word takes root and bears fruit.

Finally, we will confront the call to alignment, recognizing the peril of “the way of man” (Proverbs 14:12) and the narrowness of Christ’s way (Matthew 7:13-14).

Our lives are ultimately shaped by three forces: gift, Word of God, and presence of God.

Gifts may open doors, but only the Word sustains.

The presence of God crowns it all with life and power.

As you read, pause often.

Pray over the Scriptures.

Allow the Spirit to illuminate and convict.

This is more than information—it is an encounter.

May every chapter draw you nearer to the One who is the Word made flesh.

Table of Contents

- Title Page
- Copyright Page
- Dedication
- Acknowledgments
- About the Book
- Introduction

Chapters

1. Hearing the Voice Behind the Word
 2. Reading: Awakening the Soul
 3. Studying: Understanding and Transformation
 4. Obedience: Walking the Word
 5. A Call to Alignment
 6. Living in the Three Governing Forces
- Conclusion / Final Exhortation
 - About the Author
 - Appendices (Study Questions & Key Scriptures)

Chapter 1

Hearing the Voice Behind the Word

“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” — Isaiah 30:21

“Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” — 1 Timothy 4:13

The Word That Speaks

The Bible is not merely a library of ancient writings.

It is the breathing, pulsing testimony of the living God.

Every page carries the potential for a personal encounter.

When Isaiah promised that “your ears shall hear a word behind you,” he was not describing a rare prophetic experience reserved for a few mystics.

He was revealing God’s desire for every child to be led moment by moment by His voice.

To engage the Word is to recognize that God still speaks—and that His primary language is Scripture.

The written text becomes a living conversation when the Spirit illuminates it.

This is why Paul urged Timothy to devote himself to reading, exhortation, and doctrine.

1. Reading awakens awareness.
2. Exhortation stirs the heart.
3. Doctrine grounds the mind.

The voice behind the Word is never separate from the Word, but it is more than the ink on the page.

From Ink to Encounter

Many people approach the Bible as information: history, poetry, moral teaching.

But revelation requires more than comprehension; it demands encounter.

Jesus told the Pharisees, “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me.” (John 5:39)

They studied but never truly heard.

They mastered the text but missed the Person.

Hearing the voice behind the Word is the bridge between text and Presence.

It is when a familiar verse suddenly blazes with light, speaking directly to your present situation.

It is when a passage you have read a hundred times grips your heart with fresh urgency, as though God Himself were whispering it into your ear.

This is not mystical imagination; it is the promised ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, “When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth... He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you.” (John 16:13-14)

The Spirit takes what belongs to Christ—the eternal Word—and makes it a living word for you.

Cultivating Holy Awareness

Isaiah links the hearing of God’s voice to a turning of the heart: “when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

The posture of a listener is essential.

Awareness of God’s presence does not happen by accident; it is cultivated through quiet, attentiveness, and expectancy.

Practical steps

1. Set Apart Time Daily

Create a sacred routine. Morning is ideal because it frames the day.

Begin with stillness, letting distractions settle.

Ask the Spirit to open your ears before you open your Bible.

2. Read Slowly

Resist the urge to rush.

Pause at phrases that stir your heart.

Read aloud if possible; the ear often hears what the eye skips.

3. Listen Beneath the Surface

After reading, wait.

What truth lingers?

What command or comfort emerges?

Record impressions in a journal, but test everything against Scripture itself.

4. Respond in Prayer

Conversation completes revelation.

Speak back to God what He highlights.

Obedience begins with verbal agreement: “Yes, Lord.”

These are not mechanical steps; they are relational rhythms.

They create space for the Spirit to bring the text alive.

Reading: Awakening the Soul

Paul’s charge—“Give attendance to reading”—sounds simple, yet it carries profound weight.

Reading is the gateway to awareness.

It is not merely scanning words; it is opening the soul to divine light.

Why Reading Matters

1. Faith Comes by Hearing

Romans 10:17 declares, “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Reading is a form of hearing. When Scripture enters the ear of the heart, faith rises.

2. The Word Washes

Ephesians 5:26 speaks of the washing of water by the Word.

Daily reading cleanses the mind of worldly residue.

3. The Spirit Broods Over Text

Genesis 1 portrays the Spirit hovering over chaos until light broke forth.

In the same way, He hovers over the verses we read, ready to create light.

A Rhythm of Reading

Start with manageable portions: a Psalm, a chapter of the Gospels, a few verses from Proverbs.

Consistency is more vital than volume.

The goal is not to finish the Bible in a year but to let the Bible finish its work in you.

As you read, expect the subtle nudge—the “word behind you.”

Sometimes it is a single phrase that arrests you.

Other times it is a quiet conviction to change a habit or make a call.

Honor those whispers; they are the King's voice.

Studying: Understanding and Transformation

Reading awakens, but study transforms.

Paul exhorted, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

Study is not merely academic; it is worship with the mind.

Twofold Study

1. Exhortation

This is study for encouragement, correction, and spiritual strength.

You trace themes, compare translations, and allow Scripture to confront attitudes.

It fuels preaching, teaching, and personal edification.

2. Doctrine

This is study for grounding and revelation.

It is when a verse “stands out,” as Joshua 1:8 describes: “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night...”

Here the Word is not only understood but made flesh—incarnated in character and action.

Approach both with prayer.

Lay aside preconceived ideas.

Allow Scripture to interpret Scripture.

The Spirit, the Author, will guide you into all truth.

Obedience: The Seal of Hearing

A voice heard but not obeyed will soon be a voice unheard.

2 Timothy 2:19 reminds us, “The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

Hearing leads to doing.

Obedience is the proof of intimacy.

Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27)

The Greek sense of “follow” is continuous action.

To keep hearing is to keep following.

Delayed obedience dulls spiritual hearing.

Instant obedience sharpens it.

Like a musician tuning an instrument, each act of surrender fine-tunes your heart to God's frequency.

Practical checkpoints

1. Immediate Action: When Scripture convicts, respond before the day ends.
2. Community Accountability: Share insights with trusted believers who can encourage faithfulness.
3. Prayerful Reflection: Ask the Spirit to reveal hidden resistance.

Discerning the Narrow Way

Jesus warned of the broad road that leads to destruction and the narrow way that leads to life (Matthew 7:13-14).

The way of man "seems right," but its end is death (Proverbs 14:12).

To hear the voice behind the Word is to stay on the narrow path even when culture applauds the broad one.

Isaiah 59:8 laments, "The way of peace they know not... whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace."

Whenever a person drifts from divine instruction, frustration follows.

Hearing and heeding the Word keeps you in the way of peace.

The Voice and the Presence

Ultimately, the purpose of Scripture is encounter with the Presence of God.

The Word and the Presence are not rivals; they are inseparable.

The written Word reveals the Living Word, Jesus Christ, who in turn sends His Spirit to dwell within.

Three forces rule men: gift, Word of God, and presence of God.

Gifts may dazzle, but without the Word they mislead.

Presence without Word can be misunderstood.

But when the Word and Presence unite, gifts find their holy purpose.

Hearing the voice behind the Word secures this union.

It keeps gifts pure, aligns will with truth, and invites the abiding presence of God.

A Daily Prayer for Hearing

“Lord Jesus, open my ears to Your voice in Scripture.

Let every word I read become life and light.

Guard me from mere knowledge; lead me into encounter.

I choose obedience.

Speak, for Your servant is listening. Amen.”

Closing Exhortation

Isaiah promised that you will hear a voice behind you—close enough to whisper, faithful enough to guide.

This is not for the spiritually elite.

It is the birthright of every believer.

The same Spirit who inspired the Word indwells you now.

Begin today.

Take up the Book.

Read slowly.

Study deeply.

Obey quickly.

And as you do, the pages will cease to be silent.

You will discover the One who still walks in the garden of your heart, calling, “This is the way; walk in it.”

Chapter 2

Reading: Awakening the Soul

“Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” — 1 Timothy 4:13

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” — Romans 10:17

The First Gate of Engagement

Every spiritual journey with the Word begins with a single, ordinary action: reading.

It may appear simple, almost too simple. Yet Paul’s charge to Timothy underscores its weight: “Give attendance to reading.”

Before exhortation and doctrine—before preaching, teaching, and deep theological study—there is the quiet discipline of opening the Scriptures and letting the eyes and ears drink in God’s truth.

Reading is the first gate of engagement.

It awakens the soul to the reality of God’s voice.

Without it, the other gates remain closed.

No one stumbles into transformation apart from a steady encounter with the text of Scripture.

Why Reading Matters

1. Reading Is Hearing

Paul links faith to hearing (Romans 10:17).

When we read the Bible aloud or even silently, our inner ear receives the cadence of God's speech.

It is not merely the eye scanning ink; it is the heart listening to the breath of the Spirit.

Every verse carries a rhythm of divine life that resonates when received with expectancy.

2. Reading Washes the Mind

Ephesians 5:26 speaks of the "washing of water by the Word."

Our minds are constantly barraged by the dust of culture—images, slogans, anxieties.

Daily reading acts like a spiritual shower.

It clears the mental clutter and refreshes the inner life.

3. Reading Lays the Foundation for Understanding

Before a builder raises walls or sets a roof, he pours a foundation.

Reading is that foundation.

It supplies the raw material the Holy Spirit will later illuminate during study and meditation.

Without it, deeper insight has nothing to rest upon.

Overcoming Common Barriers

Despite its simplicity, many believers struggle to establish a habit of reading.

Three obstacles surface most often:

1. Distraction

Phones buzz, thoughts wander.

Practice: carve out an early-morning or late-evening slot and silence devices.

2. Dryness

Some days Scripture feels flat.

Practice: read aloud, change translations for fresh perspective, or begin with a Psalm to awaken the heart.

3. Condemnation

Missing a day can lead to guilt and avoidance.

Practice: remember, the goal is relationship, not performance. Pick up where you left off.

The enemy delights in making the simple seem impossible.

But the Spirit delights in empowering every willing heart.

A Rhythm of Daily Bread

When God fed Israel with manna, He commanded them to gather daily (Exodus 16:4).

Yesterday's manna would spoil; today's portion had to be collected anew.

Likewise, Scripture reading is not a weekly buffet but a daily bread.

Practical Patterns

1. Morning Light

Begin the day with a Psalm or Gospel passage. It frames the heart before the world intrudes.

2. Midday Pause

A few verses during lunch recalibrate perspective.

3. Evening Reflection

Close with a proverb or short epistle section, letting truth settle into rest.

Consistency matters more than quantity.

Five faithful minutes can accomplish more than an hour of hurried obligation.

Reading with Expectation

Approach the Bible as a conversation, not a chore.

Here are key postures:

1. Prayerful Opening

“Holy Spirit, breathe on this Word. Let me hear Your heart.”

2. Slow Pacing

Resist the urge to rush through chapters. Savor sentences.

Pause when a phrase stirs or convicts.

3. Attentive Listening

Expect the “word behind you” (Isaiah 30:21).

Sometimes it will comfort, sometimes correct.

4. Responsive Journaling

Capture impressions, questions, and nudges.

Writing anchors revelation.

When the Text Becomes Voice

Moments come when the black-and-white text blazes with living color.

A single verse seems aimed directly at your present circumstance.

This is not imagination; it is illumination.

1. **Conviction** – A warning leaps off the page, exposing hidden sin.
2. **Direction** – A passage clarifies a decision, aligning your steps.
3. **Comfort** – Words of peace calm an anxious heart.

These experiences may be subtle or dramatic, but they share one trait: the unmistakable sense that God is speaking now.

Reading as Worship

Reading is more than discipline; it is devotion.

When you open the Bible, you come before the Author.

Your attention is an offering.

Your willingness to be shaped is an act of worship.

Psalm 119 overflows with this perspective:

“I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.”
(v.16)

Delight transforms duty into joy.

The more you taste His goodness in Scripture, the more reading becomes a feast.

Linking Reading to Life

James warns against hearing the Word without doing it (James 1:22).

The purpose of reading is transformation, not accumulation.

Practical Application Steps

1. One Verse to Carry

Each day, select a single verse to repeat and pray.

2. Immediate Obedience

If a command or conviction arises, act on it within 24 hours.

3. Community Sharing

Discuss insights with a friend or small group.

Conversation cements comprehension.

Stories of Awakening

The Businessman on a Train

A weary commuter opened his pocket Bible to Psalm 23.

The familiar words—“The Lord is my shepherd”—suddenly pierced his fatigue.

He realized he had been relying on his career for security.

That night, he surrendered his anxiety and found peace that redirected his decisions for years.

The Young Mother in the Night Watches

Sleepless with a crying infant, she reached for Scripture.

Isaiah 41:10—“Fear thou not; for I am with thee”—became a lifeline.

Reading aloud in the dim nursery turned exhaustion into worship.

These are ordinary people touched by the extraordinary voice of God through ordinary reading.

Reading and the Narrow Way

Jesus described a narrow road that few find (Matthew 7:14).

Daily reading is part of staying on that path.

Culture may lure us toward shortcuts, but Scripture keeps our feet sure.

It whispers correction when we drift and sings encouragement when the journey is steep.

Proverbs 14:12 warns, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

Regular reading shines light on those deceptive ways before they lead to ruin.

Sustained by Three Forces

As introduced in Chapter 1, **three forces rule men: gift, Word of God, presence of God.**

Reading nourishes the second and safeguards the other two.

Gifts mature under the steady light of Scripture.

The presence of God is recognized and cherished when His Word is familiar.

Neglect reading and the other forces falter.

Maintain it and they flourish.

A Daily Litany

Consider incorporating this short prayer before every reading:

“Father, here I am.

Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law.

Tune my ear to the whisper of the Spirit.

Let this reading awaken faith, wash my mind, and draw me nearer to Jesus. Amen.”

Final Exhortation

Reading is the believer's lifeline.

It is simple yet supernatural, quiet yet explosive.

Through it the Spirit awakens the soul, washes the mind, and anchors the heart.

Do not wait for perfect conditions.

Begin today.

Open the Book in the morning hush, at a lunch break, or before bed.

Expect the subtle nudge of the word behind you.

Let Scripture become your daily manna, your conversation with the King.

As you cultivate this rhythm, you will discover that the Bible is not merely a record of what God once said.

It is the living voice of what He is saying now.

Chapter 3

Studying: Understanding and Transformation

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” — 2 Timothy 2:15

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” — Joshua 1:8

From Reading to Deep Digging

If reading awakens the soul, studying anchors it.

Reading gives you the broad landscape of Scripture; study invites you to dig beneath the surface until living water flows.

Paul urged Timothy not merely to read but to study—to labor like a skilled craftsman who handles the Word with precision.

The believer who stops at casual reading will taste inspiration but may miss transformation.

Study is where understanding takes root and begins to reshape thought, speech, and action.

What True Study Is—and Is Not

Study is not dry scholarship for its own sake, nor is it merely collecting facts to win arguments.

It is worship with the mind, a partnership with the Holy Spirit who authored the text.

True study asks, “Lord, what are You saying, and how must I change?”

When Joshua was told to meditate “day and night,” God wasn’t demanding endless academic research.

He was calling for an immersive encounter: to chew the Word until it becomes part of you, influencing every decision.

Twofold Study: Exhortation and Doctrine

Your original outline captures it perfectly: study is in twofold—Exhortation and Doctrine.

Both are essential; each nourishes a different dimension of the believer.

1. *Exhortation*: Fuel for the Heart

Exhortation study is devotional and pastoral.

It seeks encouragement, correction, and spiritual fire.

Here you trace promises, examine lives of faith, and let the Word comfort or challenge.

Examples:

Walking through the Psalms to discover God’s faithfulness in suffering.

Studying the miracles of Jesus to renew hope for your own needs.

This kind of study strengthens your inner man. It is like breathing pure oxygen for a weary soul.

2. *Doctrine:* Foundation for the Mind

Doctrine study establishes unshakable truth.

It is when a verse stands out and “becomes flesh,” shaping belief and behavior.

Here you tackle themes such as grace, covenant, holiness, or the kingdom of God, drawing lines from Genesis to Revelation.

Doctrine guards against error.

Without it, enthusiasm can drift into distortion.

Paul warned of winds of doctrine that toss believers (Ephesians 4:14).

Solid doctrine acts as ballast in the storm.

Tools for the Journey

Studying well requires both spiritual posture and practical tools.

1. Spiritual Posture
2. Prayerful Dependence – Begin every session with a request for illumination (Psalm 119:18).
3. Humility – Approach Scripture ready to be corrected.
4. Obedience – Expect to act on what you learn.

Practical Tools

Multiple Bible Translations – Compare wording to see nuances of meaning.

Concordance or Bible Software – Trace key words through the whole canon.

Commentaries & Dictionaries – Gain historical and cultural background.

Notebooks or Digital Journals – Capture insights and questions.

These tools serve the Spirit’s work; they never replace it.

Methods of Study

1. Book Study

Choose an entire book—say, Philippians—and read it repeatedly until its themes and structure emerge.

2. Word Study

Select a single key word such as “grace,” “kingdom,” or “faith,” and follow it through Scripture using a concordance.

3. Character Study

Explore the life of a person like David, Ruth, or Peter. Note their choices, trials, and God’s dealings with them.

4. Thematic Study

Trace a theme such as covenant, prayer, or the Holy Spirit from Genesis to Revelation.

Each method invites you deeper, but the goal remains the same: understanding that transforms.

Meditation: The Bridge to Transformation

Meditation is the slow turning of Scripture in the heart until it shapes the inner life.

The Hebrew word for “meditate” (hagah) implies murmuring, repeating, pondering aloud.

When you meditate, the Word moves from the page into memory, from memory into character.

Practical tips:

1. Memorize a verse or short passage.
2. Speak it softly as you walk or drive.
3. Ask probing questions: What does this reveal about God? About me? About action?

Meditation is how the Word “becomes flesh,” influencing thoughts even when you are not consciously studying.

Guarding Against Misuse

Study can be misused when it becomes:

1. Prideful – knowledge that inflates rather than edifies (1 Corinthians 8:1).
2. Purely Intellectual – treating Scripture like a textbook while ignoring obedience.
3. Weaponized – using verses to win arguments or condemn others.

The cure is continual surrender. Let love guide knowledge.

Case Studies of Transformation

The Young Pastor and 2 Timothy 2:15

A new minister felt inadequate until he spent months dissecting Paul's letters.

The command to “rightly divide the word of truth” birthed confidence and purity in his preaching.

The Businesswoman and Joshua 1:8

Meditating daily on God's promise of success—not material excess but Spirit-led prosperity—reframed her leadership decisions and infused courage into difficult negotiations.

These stories illustrate that study is not for scholars only; it is the inheritance of every believer.

Study and the Narrow Way

The world applauds shortcuts and surface-level spirituality.

But the narrow way requires depth.

Without study, one is easily swayed by eloquent but empty teaching.

Proverbs 14:12 warns that the way which seems right can end in death.

Study shines the light of truth on deceptive paths.

The Spirit's Role: Revelation, Not Just Information

Jesus promised the Spirit would “guide you into all truth” (John 16:13).

This guidance is not passive.

As you labor in study, the Spirit illuminates connections you would never see alone—linking prophecies, unveiling Christ in the Old Testament, applying ancient commands to modern challenges.

Moments of sudden insight—when a verse leaps alive—are evidence of this partnership.

Cherish them, but remain anchored in the written Word that confirms every revelation.

Integrating Study into Daily Life

Set a weekly time block beyond your daily reading—perhaps an hour on a weekend.

Choose a focus: a book, theme, or question.

End each session with application: “Lord, what must change in my thinking or living?”

Over time you will notice patterns of guidance, clearer discernment, and stronger faith.

Study, Gift, and Presence

As earlier chapters noted, three forces rule men: gift, Word of God, presence of God.

Study strengthens the second, which in turn steadies the other two.

Gifts flourish safely when rooted in sound doctrine.

The presence of God is recognized and welcomed when the Word has trained the senses to discern Him.

A Prayer for the Student of Scripture

“Holy Spirit, Teacher of Truth,

Open the eyes of my understanding.

Guard me from pride and error.

Let every insight lead to obedience and every doctrine to love.

Make the Word I study the life I live.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Final Exhortation

Study is not optional for the disciple who desires maturity.

It is the Spirit-empowered process by which the written Word becomes the living guide of daily life.

Give yourself to it with diligence and humility.

Read broadly to awaken.

Study deeply to transform.

And as you “rightly divide the word of truth,” you will stand approved before God—unashamed, steadfast, and alive with revelation.

Chapter 4

Obedience: Walking the Word

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” — 2 Timothy 2:15

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” — 2 Timothy 2:19

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” — 2 Peter 3:18

From Illumination to Imitation

Reading awakens the soul.

Studying grounds the mind.

But obedience—the doing of the Word—transforms the whole life.

Without obedience, even the deepest study remains theory.

Jesus said plainly, “If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” (John 13:17).

The blessing of Scripture is released not in the hearing alone but in the living.

The Necessity of Obedience

The Bible consistently joins knowledge with action:

James 1:22 – “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

Luke 11:28 – “Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.”

To know God’s Word yet refuse its call is to live in self-deception.

True discipleship demands that revelation become imitation.

Obedience as Worship

Many view obedience as drudgery, but Scripture paints it as the highest form of worship.

Abraham rose early to offer Isaac (Genesis 22).

Mary said, “Be it unto me according to thy word” (Luke 1:38).

Jesus Himself learned obedience through suffering (Hebrews 5:8).

Obedience is not mere compliance; it is love expressed.

Jesus declared, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

Love is the motive, obedience the evidence.

Foundations for Obedient Living

1. A Renewed Mind

Romans 12:2 calls us to be “transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Daily reading and study reshape thinking so that obedience flows naturally, not grudgingly.

2. A Tender Heart

Ezekiel 36:26 promises a heart of flesh—sensitive to God’s touch.

Ask the Spirit to soften every area of resistance.

3. The Power of the Spirit

Obedience is impossible in human strength.

Philippians 2:13 assures us that God works in us “to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

Obstacles to Obedience

1. Fear of Man

The desire for approval can silence conviction.

Remedy: Anchor your identity in Christ’s acceptance.

2. Love of Comfort

Some commands demand sacrifice.

Remedy: Remember the surpassing worth of Christ (Philippians 3:8).

3. Delay and Excuse

Procrastination hardens the heart.

Remedy: Practice immediate, small acts of obedience.

Walking the Narrow Way

Proverbs 14:12 warns of a way that seems right but ends in death.

Jesus contrasted the broad road of self-will with the narrow path of obedience (Matthew 7:13-14).

Few choose the narrow way because it requires surrender of personal agenda.

Yet that path alone leads to life.

Practicing Daily Obedience

1. Hear and Apply

After reading or study, pause to ask: What single step must I take today?

2. Speak the Word

Joshua 1:8 commands that the Word not depart from our mouth.

Declaring truth strengthens resolve.

3. Accountability

Share commitments with a trusted believer who will encourage faithfulness.

4. Celebrate Small Victories

Recognize and thank God for each obedient response; it builds momentum.

Case Studies of Obedience

The Business Owner

Convicted about unfair wages, she restructured salaries despite financial risk.

God honored her decision with unexpected contracts.

The Student

Prompted to forgive a rival, he obeyed and saw years of tension dissolve, opening doors for witness.

In each story, blessing followed surrender.

Obedience and the Three Ruling Forces

Recall the three forces that rule men: gift, Word of God, presence of God.

Obedience keeps these aligned.

1. **Gift** without obedience leads to pride.
2. **Word** without obedience leads to hypocrisy.
3. **Presence** without obedience fades into mere emotion.

The obedient heart becomes a steady vessel where all three forces flourish.

The Reward of Obedience

1. Deeper Intimacy with God

John 14:23—“We will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”

2. Clarity of Direction

Isaiah 30:21 promises a guiding voice to the obedient.

3. Fruitful Living

Psalm 1 describes the obedient as a tree planted by streams of water, fruitful in every season.

When Obedience Costs

Some commands will challenge relationships, finances, even reputation.

Jesus never hid the cost: “Whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:27).

But He also promised abundant reward—His presence now and eternal joy later (Mark 10:29-30).

A Lifestyle of Prompt Response

Cultivate the habit of instant obedience:

Stop when the Spirit checks.

Move when the Spirit nudges.

Delayed obedience is often disobedience.

The more quickly you respond, the clearer His voice becomes.

Prayer of Surrender

Lord Jesus, You are the Word made flesh.

I yield every corner of my life to Your authority.

Where I have resisted, forgive me.

Where I have delayed, strengthen me.

Teach me to love obedience as my highest worship.

Amen.

Final Exhortation

Obedience is not the end of the journey—it is the journey.

Reading brings awareness.

Studying brings understanding.

But obedience brings union.

Walk in the Word you have heard.

Let each command shape your schedule, speech, and desires.

Then you will know the joy of a life that not only listens to God's voice but lives it.

Chapter 5

A Call to Alignment

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” — Proverbs 14:12

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” — Matthew 7:13-14

“The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.” — Isaiah 59:8

The Urgent Invitation

Every generation faces the same divine summons: align your way with the way of the Lord.

Reading, studying, and obeying Scripture are not random disciplines; they are the Spirit’s method of calling us into alignment with the heart of God.

Alignment means to bring our entire being—mind, will, emotions, desires—under the authority of Jesus Christ.

It is to let the Word define reality rather than our own instincts or the noise of culture.

The Way of Man vs. the Way of the Lord

The Bible contrasts two roads:

1. The Broad Way of Man – attractive, convenient, self-directed.

Proverbs 14:12 warns that it “seemeth right” but ends in death.

2. The Narrow Way of the Lord – demanding, counter-cultural, Spirit-directed.

Jesus says few find it, yet it alone leads to life.

The tragedy is that the broad way often disguises itself in religious clothing.

A person can attend church, quote verses, and still walk the way of self.

Alignment is therefore not about outward ritual but inward surrender.

Why We Drift

Human nature tends toward misalignment for three reasons:

1. Inherited Sin – We are born with a bent away from God (Romans 3:23).
2. Cultural Pressure – Society celebrates autonomy and self-definition.
3. Subtle Pride – We believe we can chart our own course.

Left unchecked, these forces pull us toward frustration and, ultimately, destruction.

Three Forces That Rule Men

Your foundational outline identifies them:

- 1. *Gift***
- 2. *Word of God***
- 3. *Presence of God***

Alignment occurs when these forces operate in proper order under divine authority.

1. Gift

Every person carries God-given abilities and callings.

Misaligned, gifts become tools of ambition or manipulation.

Aligned, they become channels of service and glory to Christ.

2. Word of God

The Word is the plumb line.

It tests motives, exposes hidden sin, and directs the gift.

Without continual submission to Scripture, gifts drift into distortion.

3. Presence of God

The ultimate goal of alignment is abiding fellowship with God Himself.

His presence empowers obedience and protects from deception.

Steps Toward Alignment

Step 1: Honest Self-Examination

Psalm 139:23-24 invites us to pray, “Search me, O God, and know my heart.”

Alignment begins with willingness to let God reveal crooked places.

Step 2: Renewed Mind

Romans 12:2 calls for transformation through the renewing of the mind by the Word.

Daily Scripture intake realigns thought patterns with heaven’s logic.

Step 3: Repentance and Surrender

Repentance is more than regret; it is a deliberate turning toward God’s way.

Alignment is impossible without continual repentance.

Step 4: Spirit-Led Obedience

The Holy Spirit is the great Align-er.

As we listen and respond quickly to His promptings, He adjusts our steps moment by moment.

Living the Narrow Way

Alignment is not a one-time decision but a lifestyle.

Jesus said, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily” (Luke 9:23).

Daily cross-bearing means daily recalibration.

Practical habits include:

Morning Surrender – Begin each day by yielding your plans to God.

Midday Check-In – Pause to ask, “Am I still on Your path, Lord?”

Evening Review – Reflect with the Spirit on choices and attitudes.

These rhythms keep the heart sensitive and the steps steady.

Signs of Alignment

Increasing love for God and people (Matthew 22:37-39).

Clarity of purpose and direction.

Peace that surpasses understanding even amid difficulty (Philippians 4:7).

Growing fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, and more (Galatians 5:22-23).

Costs and Rewards

Alignment will cost comfort and may invite misunderstanding.

Friends may question your choices; culture may label you extreme.

But the reward is immeasurable:

1. Deep communion with God's presence.
2. Effectiveness in your calling.
3. Joy unspeakable and full of glory (1 Peter 1:8).
4. Eternal life on the path that truly leads to life.

Staying the Course

Even after initial alignment, vigilance is vital.

Like a ship on the open sea, a small drift—left uncorrected—can lead miles off course.

Guardrails include:

1. Community – Stay planted in a Christ-centered fellowship.
2. Regular Fasting and Prayer – Heighten spiritual sensitivity.
3. Continual Word Immersion – Keep the plumb line visible.

Testimonies of Alignment

The Young Professional

Ambition once ruled his schedule.

Through steady Scripture study, he sensed God calling him to integrity in business, even at financial loss.

Peace replaced anxiety; influence grew.

The Elder Intercessor

Years of quiet obedience positioned her as a spiritual anchor in her city.

She carried no title but walked in undeniable authority because her life was hidden in God.

Prayer of Realignment

Father, I confess my tendency to choose the broad way.

Search my heart and reveal any crooked path.

By Your Spirit, align my desires with Yours.

Let Your Word be my compass, Your presence my delight, Your Son my example.

Keep me on the narrow road that leads to life.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Final Exhortation

To engage the Word is ultimately to align with the Living Word—Jesus Christ Himself.

Reading gives awareness, studying gives understanding, obedience gives transformation, but alignment gives direction and destiny.

Choose the narrow way.

Lay down the way that seems right to man.

Yield every gift to the authority of the Word and the companionship of His presence.

Only there—fully aligned—will you walk in the life that never ends.

Chapter 6

Living in the Three Governing Forces

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” — James 1:17

“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” — John 6:63

“In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.” — Psalm 16:11

The Culmination of Engagement

Through the previous chapters we have moved from hearing to reading, from studying to obedience, and then into a life of alignment.

All of this leads to one central reality: learning to walk continually in the three forces that rule men—

Gift, Word of God, and Presence of God.

These forces are not optional accessories; they are the spiritual dynamics that shape every destiny.

To engage the Word fully is to allow these three to govern thought, calling, and daily action.

1. The Force of Gift

Every person is born with God-given deposits—talents, natural abilities, and spiritual endowments.

Scriptural Witness – “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them.” (Romans 12:6)

Purpose of the Gift – To serve, not to exalt self (1 Peter 4:10).

Danger of Misalignment – Gift without character becomes a snare (Judges 16: Samson).

Cultivating the Gift

Recognition – Identify what God has entrusted to you through prayer, wise counsel, and service.

Development – Like Paul urged Timothy, “stir up the gift of God” (2 Timothy 1:6) by practice and learning.

Submission – Offer the gift back to the Giver; keep motives pure.

When gifts are surrendered to the Lord, they become channels of blessing and doors of kingdom influence.

2. The Force of the Word of God

The Word is the eternal plumb line.

It judges motives, exposes hidden agendas, and keeps both gift and life on course.

Sharper than a sword (Hebrews 4:12) – able to cut through confusion.

Lamp to our feet (Psalm 119:105) – giving day-to-day direction.

Seed of transformation (1 Peter 1:23) – birthing new nature within.

Without continual immersion in Scripture, gifts drift into ambition and the presence becomes sentiment.

With the Word alive in the heart, every other force finds true expression.

3. The Force of the Presence of God

Ultimately, everything leads here.

The presence of God is not merely an atmosphere of worship; it is God Himself dwelling with His people.

Promise of Jesus – “Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:20)

Power Source – “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord.” (Zechariah 4:6).

Place of Joy – “In thy presence is fulness of joy.” (Psalm 16:11).

To value His presence above all is to find the deepest fulfillment and the clearest guidance.

This presence sustains the gift and confirms the Word.

Interdependence of the Three

Picture a three-stranded cord (Ecclesiastes 4:12):

Gift is the vessel.

Word is the compass.

Presence is the power.

Remove any strand and the cord weakens.

Gift without Word = pride and abuse.

Word without Presence = lifeless formality.

Presence without Word = emotional excess without anchor.

The mature believer keeps all three braided together.

Daily Practices for a Three-Force Life

1. Morning Consecration

Surrender gifts afresh, open the Word, welcome the Presence.

2. Word-Guided Planning

Test daily decisions against Scripture before action.

3. Practicing His Presence

Whisper prayers through the day, acknowledging the Spirit in ordinary tasks.

4. Service in Love

Use gifts to bless others, refusing self-promotion.

Guarding the Gates

The enemy seeks to distort each force:

1. For Gifts – Tempts with ambition and comparison.
2. For the Word – Sows doubt or distraction.
3. For the Presence – Offers counterfeit thrills.

Stay vigilant through fasting, fellowship, and constant return to the written Word.

Stories of the Three Forces in Action

The Musician

A skilled singer once sought fame until a personal revival re-aligned her gift to serve in worship.

As she placed Word and Presence first, her ministry carried unusual authority that touched nations.

The Teacher

Immersed daily in Scripture, he sensed God's presence guiding lesson plans, turning a classroom into a quiet mission field.

These testimonies show the harmony of gift, Word, and presence shaping ordinary lives for extraordinary impact.

Prayer of Integration

Father of Lights, thank You for every good gift.

Let Your Word be my daily compass and Your Presence my constant delight.

Keep my heart humble, my motives pure, and my steps sure.

Braid together gift, Word, and presence until my life is wholly Yours.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Final Charge

This is the summit of engaging the Word:

to live continually in the power of your God-given gifts, anchored in Scripture, and saturated with the Presence of the Living God.

Let this be your daily pursuit:

- 1. Cherish the gift—but never above the Giver.*
- 2. Honor the Word—let it set every boundary and direction.*
- 3. Seek the Presence—the very life of your soul.*

When these three govern you, you will stand unshaken in a restless world and shine as a living testimony that the Word is not only to be read, studied, and obeyed—but to be embodied.

Conclusion

Final Exhortation

The journey of Engaging the Word has taken us from hearing to reading, studying, obeying, aligning our hearts with God, and finally living in the power of His gifts, Word, and presence.

Each chapter is not a stand-alone lesson but a progression of grace—an invitation to walk deeper with the Lord.

The voice behind the Word still calls:

“This is the way, walk ye in it.” (Isaiah 30:21)

Let this be your daily pursuit:

Keep your ears open to the whisper of the Spirit.

Let the written Word remain your unshakable foundation.

Obey promptly, even when the path is narrow.

Guard your alignment; refuse the broad way of man.

Treasure the gifts God has placed in you, but seek His presence above all.

When these practices become life habits, the Word will not merely inform you—it will transform you.

And your life will become a living testimony that God’s Word is alive, active, and unstoppable.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.” —
Colossians 3:16

About the Author



David Morakinyo is a passionate Bible teacher and mentor whose heart beats for a generation grounded in Scripture and aflame with the Spirit of God.

Drawing from years of ministry and personal devotion, he writes with clarity and prophetic insight, helping believers discover the transforming power of God's Word.

David serves through teaching, writing, and mentoring, equipping men and women to live fully aligned with the purposes of Christ.

Optional Appendices

A. Study & Reflection Questions

Use these to deepen personal or group study.

In what ways have you recently heard “the voice behind the Word”?

Which discipline—reading, studying, or obedience—needs the most attention in your life?

What practical steps can help you stay aligned with God’s narrow way?

Identify your primary spiritual gifts. How can you consecrate them afresh to God?

Describe a moment when the presence of God redirected your plans. What did you learn?

B. Key Scriptures for Daily Engagement

A short reading plan to reinforce the book’s themes:

Day	Passage	Focus
1	Isaiah 30:21	Hearing God’s voice
2	1 Timothy 4:13	Commitment to reading
3	2 Timothy 2:15	Diligent study
4	Joshua 1:8	Speaking the Word
5	Matthew 7:13-14	Narrow way
6	Psalms 16:11	Practicing His presence
7	Colossians 3:16	Word dwelling richly

Engaging the Word calls believers to align their lives with the Scriptures and walk in the presence of God. This insightful book explores the transformative power of living by the Word, offering practical guidance and inspiration for deepening one's relationship with Christ.

